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SOVIET RE-DEFECTOR ALLEGES SHCHARANSKY LINK WITH CIA
MOSCOW

The Soviet-born former news chief of U.S.-run Radio Liberty charged today that dissident Anatoly Shcharansky collaborated with the radio and the CIA.

The official Soviet news agency Tass quoted Oleg Tumanov, who has reappeared in Moscow, as saying that "up to the time of Shcharansky's arrest in the Soviet Union, Radio Liberty repeatedly used information supplied by him in its inflammatory broadcasts.

"Moreover, his information for processing and editing came from CIA people working at Radio Liberty."

Tumanov, 41, disappeared from his job in Munich as Radio Liberty's acting editor-in-chief earlier this year. He showed up in Moscow last month at an official news conference where he denounced Shcharansky, a Jewish rights activist, was freed last February in an East-West prisoner swap after nine years in Soviet prisons. He was sentenced as a U.S. agent in 1978, a year after his arrest, but denied the charge.

"When the Soviet authorities unmasked him as a CIA spy, at the radio station it was as if a bomb had dropped," Tass said. "CIA people known to Tumanov at Radio Liberty confided their regret to him over the failure of 'our people in Moscow.'

Tass quoted Tumanov as saying the CIA had hoped it would be difficult for Soviet authorities to take action against Shcharansky in the light of the human rights provisions of the 1975 Helsinki accords.

Tumanov was the fourth apparent re-defector to be presented to the Western press in Moscow in the past two years.